

[Will Cumbie]

Range-lore

Annie McAulay

Maverick, Texas

RANGE-LORE

Will Cumbie was born in 1873. In 1885 he moved to Hamilton County. He lived there until 1890 when he moved to Coke County.

Mr. Cumbie says: "My father always kept a small herd of cattle and made us boys- there was three of us - tend them.

"I punched cattle quite a bit in Coke County. I used to work for Uncle Bill McCutcheon when he was range boss. His ranch was south of Bronte, the same as father's, and I worked for him off and on for several years. I helped with some pretty big round-ups when I first came to Coke County. I won't describe one; I know plenty have done that.

"Sometimes we'd have quite a bit of trouble, especially 2 when we'd be holding a herd and they'd try to stampede on us.

"I remember Bill Richard passed by our place once with a big herd he was driving some place. They camped near our house and that night it came up a cloud and the herd made a break and got scattered all over the country. My father and some of our neighbors helped get 'em together the next day. Some of them got clear over in the hills and was pretty hard to run down.

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"Mrs. Jeff Davis, an old rider and rancher in Coke County, was the best woman rider and roper I ever knew. She helped with the round-ups and did any other ranch work there was to do. After her husband died she looked after her ranch for many years.

"We used to have lots of bronc busters over this way. It was a custom for many years for Robert Lee to pull a rodeo every Saturday. Some of the best riders from over the country would come. I've seen Booger Red and Fred Rob, noted bronc busters, ride many times at those affairs. They'd be plenty of other good ones on hand, too.

"They'd also have goat and cattle roping and so on. There was a purse for all the winners in the contests."

REFERENCE:- Will Cumbie, Robert Lee, Texas. Rancher of Coke County. Interviewed July 28, 1938. 1 Beliefs and customs - Occupational lore

Mrs. Annie McAulay

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COWBOY LORE

WILL CUMBIE was born in [?] 1873 . In 1885 he moved to Hamilton County. He lived there until 1890 when he moved to Coke County [?]. His father was a farmer and rancher in Coke County a great many years. He was married to Miss Ollie Walton of Bronte in 1894. He was elected tax accessor of Coke County in 1916 and served six years. Since that

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time he has made his home in Robert Lee where he has been engaged in the drygoods business.

Mr. Cumbie says : "I learned to punch cattle pretty young. " My father always kept a small herd of cattle and made us boys-there was three of us-tend them.

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Mrs. Annie McAulay

Runnels County

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"Mrs. Jeff Davis, an old rider and rancher in Coke County, was the best woman rider and roper I ever knew. She helped with the round-ups and did any other ranch work there was to do. " After her husband died she looked after her ranch for many years. She runs the Robert Lee Hotel now. A hotel that is very popular with tourists and neighboring ranchers.

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Will Cumbie, Robert Lee, Texas. Pioneer citizen and old cowhand Rancher of Coke County. Interview Interviewed July 28, 1933.